

Historic, Archive Document

Do not assume content reflects current scientific knowledge, policies, or practices.





United States Department
of Agriculture
Office of Public Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20250

News Releases and other News Material

Number 5293

May 10 - May 14, 1993

IN THIS ISSUE:

Page

NEWS RELEASES-

0345	Scientist Promotes New Non-Chemical Ways To Protect Produce	1
0346	USDA Official Affirms That U.S. Poultry Are Free Of Fowl Plague	1
0347	U.S. To Donate Butteroil For Use In Mexico	2
0349	1993-Crop Wheat, Barley, Oats and Rye County Loan & Purchase Rates	2
0350	USDA Announces Decisions For Aromatic Rice	3
0351	USDA Finalizes Regulations For Pesticide Recordkeeping	3
0352	Se Asegura Que Las Aves De Corral De Los Ee.Uu.Estan Libres De Peste Avicola	4
0353	USDA Awards \$10 Million For Youth At Risk Programs	5
0354	U.S. To Donate Feed Wheat To Armenia	7
0355	USDA Seeks Comments On Proposed Soybean Referendum Procedures	8
0357	USDA Extends Tariff-Rate Quota For Sugar	8
0358	USDA Genetic Resources Council To Meet	8
0359	Eligible ELS Cotton Producers Due Deficiency Payments For 1992 Crop	9
0360	USDA Scientist Identifies Natural Compounds That Kill Whiteflies	9
0361	Nash Sworn In As Under Secretary For Small Community And Rural Development	10
0362	USDA Secretary Names National Dairy Board Members	11
0363	Branstool Sworn In As Assistant Secretary For Marketing And Inspection	11
0364	Townsend Sworn In As Assistant Secretary For Administration	12
0365	Lyons Sworn In As Assistant Secretary For Natural Resources And Environment	12
0366	Rominger Sworn In As Deputy Secretary Of Agriculture	13
0367	Symposium Honoring 100 Years Of Federal Food Studies Looks To Future	13
0368	USDA Protects 36 New Plant Varieties	14
0370	Intentions To Place '92 Crop Feed Grains In Farmer-Owned Reserve Announced	15
0374	Maryland Takes Electronic Benefits Program Statewide	16

0375	Public Hearings Scheduled On Future Of Meat And Poultry Inspection	17
0376	Scientific Panel Reports Findings On Forest Health Issues	18
0377	USDA Announces 43 National Scholars Recipients	19

PROGRAM ANNOUNCEMENTS-

0356	USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Rice Prices, Marketing Certificate Rates	20
0371	USDA Announces Prevailing World Market Price And User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate For Upland Cotton	21
0372	USDA Announces 1993 Flue-Cured Tobacco No-Net-Cost Assessments	23
0373	FGIS Publishes New Moisture Meter Charts	24

USDA news releases are available by fax the same day they are issued. For information on how to use USDA'S **Ag News F A X** service, use your fax machine's touchtone dialing to call (202) 690-3944. At the voice prompt, press 9 on the phone and then press the start button on your fax machine. Instructions for using the service will be faxed to you.

For further information about this booklet contact Charles Hobbs, editor, News Division, Office of Public Affairs, Room 406-A, U.S Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250 or call (202) 720-4026.

News Releases-

Release No. 0345.93

Doris Stanley (301) 344-2963

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

SCIENTIST PROMOTES NEW NON-CHEMICAL WAYS TO PROTECT PRODUCE

WASHINGTON, May 10--Harvested fruits and vegetables could be protected against decay by relying on a combination of natural weapons such as yeasts and disease resistance built into plants, a U.S. Department of Agriculture scientist said today.

Public concern for food safety has intensified the scientific search for natural methods of controlling postharvest diseases of fruits and vegetables, said Charles L. Wilson, a plant pathologist with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

To control pathogens that cause disease and decay, Wilson and colleagues are finding how to use microorganisms like yeasts and natural fungicides from plants. They also are working to develop pathogen resistance in crops.

At the ARS Appalachian Fruit Research Laboratory in Kearneysville, W. Va., Wilson said researchers have found yeasts that attach themselves to the cell walls of pathogens on fruit. He said the yeasts produce enzymes that degrade the walls, weakening and eventually killing the pathogens. These yeasts are present naturally on fruit.

Also, he said, researchers found that when applied to plants, the yeasts stimulate the production of an enzyme called chitinase that's part of the plant's natural defense mechanism.

Another plus: The yeasts don't rely on production of antibiotics to fend off the pathogens, because this defense can fail as pathogens develop resistance to the antibiotics, he said. Instead, the yeasts directly attack the pathogens, induce the host plant to resist the pathogens, or outcompete the pathogens for life-giving nutrients.

Wilson collaborated on the chitinase research with scientists from the Center for Horticultural Research, Laval University, Quebec, Canada.

In other research, Wilson found three compounds produced by ripening peaches that have fungicidal properties. "These natural fungicides completely inhibited the growth of two major fruit rot fungi in laboratory tests," he said.

Wilson and scientists at Tuskegee University and the Volcani Center in Israel have reduced storage rots on peaches, apples, citrus, tomatoes, onions, sweetpotatoes and carrots by treating the produce with low doses of ultraviolet (UV) light.

"We've found that combining UV-light treatments with antagonistic yeast helped apples resist decay much longer," Wilson said.

Other combinations of antagonistic microorganisms, natural fungicides and induced resistance to postharvest diseases are being investigated, he added.

#

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Charles L. Wilson, research plant pathologist, Appalachian Fruit Research Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Kearneysville, W. Va. 25430. Telephone (304) 725-3451.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0346.93

Kendra Pratt (301) 436-4898

Edwin Moffett (202) 720-4026

USDA OFFICIAL AFFIRMS THAT U.S. POULTRY ARE FREE OF FOWL PLAGUE

WASHINGTON, May 10--U.S. poultry continues to remain free of highly pathogenic avian influenza (fowl plague), an official of the U.S. Department of Agriculture said today.

"U.S. chickens and poultry products can freely enter the world market without any risk to foreign flocks or consumers," said Lonnie J. King, acting administrator of USDA's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service.

King said isolations recently were made of a nonpathogenic virus of subtype H5N2 at five live-bird markets in New Jersey, 11 in New York, one in Pennsylvania and one in Florida. Live-bird markets are facilities where birds are slaughtered and processed on the spot for local consumption.

"Our surveillance and testing program has shown beyond a doubt that U.S. poultry pose no threat to the international poultry industry. Viruses like these are endemic in migrating waterfowl that move across the Americas," King said. "They are not unique to the United States and can be readily identified wherever routine surveillance is carried out."

Tracebacks showed that poultry had been shipped to the affected markets from more than 300 noncommercial flocks.

Only on two of the noncommercial flocks could a nonpathogenic avian influenza virus of subtype H5N2 be isolated. One flock was a backyard, multi-species operation in New Jersey; the other was a backyard flock in Pennsylvania. Neither flock showed any evidence of illness. The "virus isolate" involved did not produce illness in susceptible laboratory chickens.

Based on this information, officials in Argentina recently lifted most import restrictions on U.S. poultry breeding stock and poultry products. However, import restrictions remain in place on poultry exports to Argentina originating from New Jersey, Pennsylvania, New York and Florida, the only states where the virus was isolated.

"We are encouraged that Argentina has eased their import restrictions," King said. "We hope the decision to rescind part of the ban by Argentine authorities is an initial step in resolving this important trade issue."



Release No. 0347.93

Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

U.S. TO DONATE BUTTEROIL FOR USE IN MEXICO

WASHINGTON, May 10--The United States will donate \$1.7 million worth of butteroil for use in Mexico, according to Christopher Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

Project Concern International, a private U.S. voluntary organization, will sell the 1,000 metric tons of butteroil in the Mexican private sector. Proceeds from the sales will be used to improve the health and nutrition of participants in maternal and child health programs sponsored by the Mexican government. The program is expected to reach as many as 200,000 families.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation to needy people overseas.

The supply period for this donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0349.93

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

1993-CROP WHEAT, BARLEY, OATS AND RYE COUNTY LOAN AND PURCHASE RATES

WASHINGTON, May 10--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced county loan and purchase rates for the 1993 crops of wheat, barley, oats and rye.

The 1993-crop county price support rates were determined in accordance with the Agricultural Act of 1949 and reflect changes in the national average price support rates. Some county rates were

adjusted to reflect location and transportation costs. These adjustments were limited to a three percent change in addition to the change in the national average price support rate from the 1992 crop.

Copies of the rate schedules are available from: Thomas Fink, Cotton, Grain and Rice Price Support Division, USDA/ASCS, P.O. Box 2415, Washington, D.C. 20013; Telephone: (202) 720-8701.



Release No. 0350.93

Bruce Merkle (202) 720-8206

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES DECISIONS FOR AROMATIC RICE

WASHINGTON, May 10--Price support loan rates for aromatic varieties of rice produced in 1993 will not be subject to discounts because of their aromatic properties, said Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Weber said because of the special storage and merchandising requirements of these varieties of rice, any aromatic rice delivered to the Commodity Credit Corporation in satisfaction of a loan obligation must be delivered, at the producer's expense, to an approved storage location that can provide storage separate from non-aromatic rice.

Aromatic rice requires segregated storage since its aroma would permeate regular rice, thereby lowering its value.



Release No. 0351.93

Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-8998

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA FINALIZES REGULATIONS FOR PESTICIDE RECORDKEEPING

WASHINGTON, May 10--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has finalized its recordkeeping requirements for restricted-use pesticides applied by certified applicators.

Pesticides falling under the federal "restricted use" category may only be used by applicators who have been certified to use such pesticides through a state or federally approved pesticide certification program. All restricted-use pesticides are registered by the Environmental Protection Agency under the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act.

L. P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "The recordkeeping program will only apply to certified applicators using or supervising the use of these restricted-use pesticides."

Under the program, which is authorized by the Food Agriculture, Conservation and Trade Act of 1990, applicators will need to record:

- the location and size of the treated area;
- the crop, commodity, stored product or site;
- the brand or pesticide product name and EPA registration number;
- the total amount of pesticide applied;
- the month, day and year of the treatment; and,
- the applicator's name and certification number (if applicable).

Records compiled under this program will form a data base for environmental surveys by federal and state agencies. The data base will also be used by USDA and EPA for annual reports to Congress.

Only USDA and eligible state agencies will have access to the restricted-use pesticide records. Access will also be available to licensed health care professionals providing medical treatment to patients who may have been exposed to restricted-use pesticides.

USDA and state regulatory agencies will enforce the recordkeeping program through cooperative agreements. Violators will be fined not more than \$500 for the first violation and a minimum of \$1000 for additional violations. An administrative appeal process will be available.

Massaro said USDA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency will sign a memorandum of understanding to clarify specific roles and authority concerning private and commercial applicators.

Details of the pesticide recordkeeping regulation appeared in the April 9 Federal Register. Copies and additional information are available from Bonnie Poli, Chief, Pesticide Records Branch, Science Division, AMS, Suite 200, 8700 Centreville Rd., Manassas, Va. 22110; telephone (703) 330-7826.



Release No. 0352.93

Estela Bock (301) 436-5271

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

SE ASEGURA QUE LAS AVES DE CORRAL DE LOS EE.UU. ESTAN LIBRES DE PESTE AVICOLA

WASHINGTON, Mayo 10--Las aves de corral de los EE.UU. estan libres de la peste avícola y continuan libres de esta enfermedad, dijo hoy un funcionario del Departamento de Agricultura de los Estados Unidos (USDA, sigla en ingles).

"Nuestros estudios de observación y pruebas han demostrado sin duda alguna que las aves de corral de los EE.UU. no presentan ningún riesgo a la industria avícola internacional," dijo Lonnie J. King, administrador interino del Servicio de Inspección de Salud Agropecuaria del USDA. "Los pollos y los productos avícolas de los EE.UU. pueden entrar el mercado mundial libremente sin ser un riesgo para las aves o consumidores extranjeros."

King dijo que recientemente el tipo no patogénico del virus del subtipo H5N2 fue aislado en cinco mercados de aves vivas de corral en Nueva Jersey, en once mercados en Nueva York, en un mercado en Pennsylvania, y en uno en Florida. Los mercados de aves de corral vivas son establecimientos donde las aves son sacrificadas y procesadas en el mismo sitio para consumo local.

"Virus como estos son endémicos en aves acuáticas migratorias que vuelan a través de las Américas," dijo King. "No son únicas en los Estados Unidos y se pueden identificar fácilmente cuando se llevan a cabo estudios de observación."

Las investigaciones han demostrado que las aves de corral de los mercados afectados se originaron en más de 300 bandadas no-comerciales. Sólo en dos de las bandadas no-comerciales se pudo aislar el virus no patogénico de la influenza aviar del subtipo H5N2. Una bandada se encontró en un rancho pequeño en Nueva Jersey que criaba diferentes clases de aves; la otra también se encontró en un establecimiento pequeño en Pennsylvania. Ninguna de las aves mostraron ningún síntomas de enfermedad. El virus aislado no produjo enfermedad en aves susceptibles de laboratorio.

Basado en esta información, los oficiales en Argentina recientemente han levantado la mayoría de las restricciones de importación para aves de corral y productos avícolas de los EE.UU. Sin embargo, las restricciones de importación permanecen igual para las exportaciones de aves de corral hacia Argentina cuando se originan de Nueva Jersey, Pennsylvania, Nueva York, y Florida, los únicos estados donde se aisló el virus.

"Nos alegra saber que Argentina ha levantado sus restricciones de importación," dijo King. "Tenemos la esperanza que la decisión por parte las autoridades Argentinas de rescindir parte de la prohibición es el paso inicial para resolver este importante asunto comercial."



Release No. 0353.93

Charles M. Morgan (202) 690-3656

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA AWARDS \$10 MILLION FOR YOUTH AT RISK PROGRAMS

WASHINGTON, May 10--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has awarded \$10 million to state Extension Services to renew and establish national initiative "Youth at Risk" programs in communities across the nation.

"Youth at Risk" programs provide support for youth, particularly those most vulnerable to negative influences because of povety, lack of parental and community support, and peer pressure.

Extension Youth at Risk programs focus on prevention and intervention rather than treatment. Funding is targeted in three areas: (1) after-school educational programs in child care settings; (2) collaboration among community organizations which initiates and strengthens programs and services that meet the needs of high-risk youth; and (3) programs that enhance reading and science literacy.

According to Myron D. Johnsrud, administrator of USDA's Extension Service, one of the goals of the Youth at Risk national initiative is to expand Extension's outreach to a greater number of youth, particularly those who are vulnerable as a result of poverty, lack of parental and/or community support, and negative peer pressure.

This is the third consecutive year Congress has provided funds for Youth At Risk programs. In fiscal 1991, \$7.5 million in federal funds supported 70 programs nationwide. Last year, \$10 million provided funding for the continuation of 68 of these programs, and for the creation of 25 additional ones. The \$10 million in fiscal 1993 continues support of 95 existing programs and one new program.

The new program is "Expanded Thinking in Science, Math, and Technology," located in Omaha, Nebraska.

Programs receiving renewal funding are:

- Ala. - Assess and Address: Meeting the Needs of High Risk Youth;
- Ark. - 4-H Yukon River Fisheries Enhancement and Youth Development Program;
- Ark. - Kuskokwim 4-H Fisheries and Youth Development Program;
- Ariz. - Phoenix Coalition for Youth and Families;
- Ariz. - SAIL (Summer Adventures in Learning);
- Calif. - School Age Child Care Education;
- Calif. - Project Excel: SERIES Science Education;
- Calif. - 4-H AM/PM Club-Chula Vista;
- Conn. - New Haven Spaces Initiative;
- Conn. - Bridgeport R.I.S.E;
- Conn. - School-age Child Care in Hartford, Connecticut;
- Conn. - New Britain S.T.R.I.V.E.;
- Del. - WCASA Community Partnership;
- Del. - Seaford Collaboration for Youth;
- Fla. - Focus on the Future: Enhancing Literacy through Technology;
- Ga. - Project KITE;
- Ga. - Calhoun/Gordon County Shuttle School;
- Ga. - Project Youth Empowerment;
- Hawaii - A.C.T. (Acting Collaboratively Together);
- Idaho - After School Adventures And Mentoring Program (4-H Family Connections);
- Idaho - Just for Kicks, 4-H Adventures Club;
- Idaho - School Age Child Care and Parenting Resources;
- Ill. - Youth At Risk School Age Child Care and Parent Education Program for Aledo, Sherrard Westmer Unit Schools and Communities;
- Ill. - Computer Assisted Learning;
- Ill. - ABCD School Age Child Care and Family Enrichment;
- Ind. - Space Station Indiana;
- Iowa - Model City/Woodland Willkie Literacy Project;

Iowa - Community Parenting Coalition Targeting High Risk Youth;
Iowa - Postville Child Care Education--A Rural Model for Before and After School Care;
Kan. - Responsive Educational Approach to Diversity;
Kan. - Caring and Collaborating for Youth;
Kan. - Kids After School: Reno County, Kansas;
Ky. - Harlan Youth Employability;
Ky. - T.E.A.M. (Garrard County Child Care Program);
La. - Horizon Program (Collaboration with other Youth Serving Agencies);
Maine - Strategies Developing School Age Child Care and Education in Rural Maine;
Md. - 4-H Adventure in Science;
Mass. - YAR Programming in Worcester County, Massachusetts;
Mich. - Exploring Spaces in Edison Neighborhood;
Mich. - All for One: Pattengill Area Reading, Math and Science Literacy;
Mich. - Say YES to Willow Run;
Minn. - Project FINE (Focus on Integrating Newcomers into Education);
Minn. - Youth Issues Education;
Minn. - On the Move...For Minnesota Families;
Miss. - After School Child Care and Education Project;
Miss. - 4-H Project SOARS;
Mo. - 4-H Summer Adventure Club;
Mo. - The St. Joseph Youth Alliance: A Targeted Prevention/Intervention Coalition;
Mo. - Students Taking Academic Initiative for Reading Success (STAIRS);
Mont. - Native American Family;
Neb. - Kids' Team (13 Days - 13 Kids);
Neb. - Choices and Challenges for Youth;
Nev. - Building Communities of Support for High-Risk Youth in Isolated Rural Nevada;
N.H. - Youth Opportunities Unlimited A: Comprehensive School-Age Child Care Program;
N.J. - Camden City Community Garden;
N.J. - Bergen-Lafayette Up-Scale Project for Youth Ages 5-14;
N.J. - Soweto Academy-Walsh Homes After School Program for Youth Ages 5-13 (4-H After School Education in Newark Housing Complexes);
N.M. - A Proposal for Quay County Youth Partnership (QCYP);
N.Y. - School's Out-School Age Child Care Program;
N.Y. - Make a Difference Program for Youth;
N.Y. - Rural Families Cooperative/After School Child Care Program;
N.C. - Wayne County 4-H High Risk Programming in an After School Setting;
N.D. - Community School Revitalization Project (CSRP) (The Rural School and Community Development Project);
Ohio - Athens County Coalition Enhancement Project;
Ohio - Cleveland Peer Volunteer Development Project;
Ohio - Knox County After School Day-Care Program;
Ohio - Community Councils for Youth at Risk--Clermont County;
Okla. - Coalition for After School Care for High Risk Indian Youth;
Okla. - Home Visitation Program for Adolescent Mothers;
Ore. - 4-H Kid Konnection;
Ore. - Mill City/Gates 4-H Development Project;
Pa. - Youth Educational Programs in Coatesville;
P.R. - Vieques Kids in Action for Science Education;
R.I. - Rhode Island CE School Age Child Care Education;
S.C. - CHOICES (Children Having Opportunities to Increase their Chances for Educational Success);

- S.D. - After School Child Care (Sugar Bowl II);
- S.D. - Pine Ridge Youth Coalition and Center;
- Tenn. - 4-H B.E.S.T. (Building Esteem Through Science and Technology);
- Texas - OLE! Project (The Rutabaga Project: 4-H School Age Literacy Education for Hispanic Youth);
- Texas - 4-H CARES (Children At Risk Educational System);
- Texas - Making the Grade: Victoria;
- Texas - 4-H C.A.P.I.T.A.L. (Partnerships: ROPES);
- Utah - Project CARES (Children At Risk Extended School);
- Vt. - Growing Up at Risk: Enhancing Community Awareness;
- Va. - Science and Technological Literacy Education for High Risk Youth in Giles County;
- Va. - Strong Families, Competent Kids/Caring Communities;
- Va. - Bailey's Community "Making the Grade" Project of Fairfax, Virginia;
- Wash. - High Risk Youth Programs--ONTU 4-H Challenge Collaboration;
- Wash. - Spokane Family Focus School Age Child Care Project;
- Wash. - Salishan Together for At Risk Youth (STAR Youth);
- W. Va. - Developing Youth Potential: Enabling Youth at Risk to Become Healthy Productive, Contributing Adults;
- Wis. - Wisconsin Youth Futures;
- Wyo. - Healthy Infant-Capable Adolescent Project
- Wyo. - Wind River Indian Reservation Youth and Families at Risk Program.

For additional information about Extension Youth at Risk programs contact Jon E. Irby, (202) 720-3891, INTERNET jirby@esusda.gov.



Release No. 0354.93
Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

U.S. TO DONATE FEED WHEAT TO ARMENIA

WASHINGTON, May 11--The United States will donate 106,000 metric tons of feed wheat to Armenia, according to Christopher E. Goldthwait, acting general sales manager for the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The \$31.3 million donation (including transportation costs) will be delivered to Armenian government mills and subsequently sold, at free market prices, as animal feed to private and public sector livestock and poultry producers in the country.

The Armenian government will use the proceeds from the sales to develop the country's private sector agricultural economy and provide food aid and health services for the needy and elderly.

The donation will be made under Section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949, which authorizes the donation of surplus commodities owned by the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation to developing countries. The program is administered by USDA's Foreign Agricultural Service.

The supply period of the donation is fiscal 1993.

For more information, contact James F. Keefer, FAS, (202) 720-5263.



Release No. 0355.93
Clarence Steinberg (202) 720-8998
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA SEEKS COMMENTS ON PROPOSED SOYBEAN REFERENDUM PROCEDURES

WASHINGTON, May 11--The U.S. Department of Agriculture is seeking comments on proposed procedures for a referendum among soybean producers to determine if the soybean promotion program should continue.

L.P. Massaro, acting administrator of USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said, "The referendum, which must be held by July 9, 1994, is authorized by the Soybean Promotion, Research and Consumer Information Act."

In the referendum, producers will decide if they want to continue to pay the current assessment of 0.5 of one percent of the net market price of the soybeans they sell. These assessments are used to fund the program.

The soybean act outlines general procedures governing the referendum, one of which states that registration and voting will be conducted at USDA's county extension offices. USDA is proposing to use Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service personnel to count referendum ballots, determine eligibility of challenged voters and tabulate results.

USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors activities carried out under the act by the United Soybean Board.

The proposed procedures for the referendum will be published in the May 6 Federal Register. Comments, in duplicate, should be sent by June 7 to Marketing Programs Branch, Livestock and Seed Division, AMS, USDA, Room 2624-S, P.O. Box 96456, Washington, D.C. 20090-6456.

For further information contact Ralph L. Tapp, chief, Marketing Programs Branch at (202) 720-1115.



Release No. 0357.93
Sally Klusaritz (202) 720-3448
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA EXTENDS TARIFF-RATE QUOTA FOR SUGAR

WASHINGTON, May 11--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has extended the period for the 1992/93 U.S. tariff-rate quota for sugar from Sept. 30, 1993, to Sept. 30, 1994, Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles J. O'Mara announced today.

USDA also has increased the quota level from 1,231,000 metric tons (1,356,945 short tons) to 2,268,000 metric tons (2,500,041 short tons), effective Oct. 1, 1993.

Revised country-by-country tariff-rate quota allocations for sugar allowed into the United States at the low duty rate will be announced soon by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.



Release No. 0358.93
Bruce Schwartz (301) 344-2303
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA GENETIC RESOURCES COUNCIL TO MEET

WASHINGTON, May 11--The National Genetic Resources Advisory Council will meet here May 12-13 at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Administration Building, 14th Street and Jefferson Drive, S.W., The Mall.

The 16-member council was appointed last year by the Secretary of Agriculture to provide guidance on the department's National Genetic Resources Program. The meeting begins at 9 a.m. May 12 in Room 104-A.

"The meeting is open to the public and persons may participate as time and space permits," said Henry L. Shands, director of the genetic resources program. Shands, associate deputy administrator for genetic resources at USDA's Agricultural Research Service in Beltsville, Md., said persons may also file written comments before or after the meeting.

Shands said the genetic resources program, authorized by Congress, is designed to preserve genetic material important to American food and agriculture production--including genetic resources of plants, farm animals, insects, farm-raised catfish and microbiological organisms.

Among items scheduled for discussion are development of a strategic plan for germplasm preservation and enhancement, and a USDA database on germplasm resources. For a copy of the agenda, contact Shands at Bldg. 005, Rm. 215, BARC-West, Beltsville, Md. 20705, telephone (301) 504-5059.



Release No. 0359.93

Bob Feist (202) 720-6789

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

ELIGIBLE ELS COTTON PRODUCERS DUE DEFICIENCY PAYMENTS FOR 1992 CROP

WASHINGTON, May 12--The U.S. Department of Agriculture today announced that eligible producers of extra long staple (ELS) cotton will receive deficiency payments of 17.65 cents per pound on their 1992 production.

Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, said the 1992 deficiency payment rate is equal to the difference between the established target price of 105.8 cents per pound and the national average loan rate of 88.15 cents per pound, which is the maximum allowed by law. Total payments will be about \$6.1 million.

Participants in the 1993 ELS cotton Acreage Reduction Program are eligible to receive deficiency payments equal to their farm program payment yield multiplied by their eligible ELS cotton planted acreage.

USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service will begin making payments the last part of May.

Eligible ELS cotton producers receive a deficiency payment when the national average market price received by producers during the eight-month marketing period, Aug. 1992 through March 1993, is below the target price but not to exceed the difference between the target price and loan rate. The national average 8-month market price was 80 cents per pound.



Release No. 0360.93

Doris Stanley (301) 344-2963

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA SCIENTIST IDENTIFIES NATURAL COMPOUNDS THAT KILL WHITEFLIES

WASHINGTON, May 12--Natural compounds that kill crop-damaging whiteflies have been identified as a group of sugar esters that are environmentally safe for insecticide use, a U.S. Department of Agriculture chemist reported.

Whiteflies suck sap from more than 600 types of plants, including fruits, vegetables, ornamentals, alfalfa and cotton, causing multimillion-dollar losses.

J. George Buta of USDA's Agricultural Research Service said the compounds that deal death to this pest were found on the surface of leaves of *Nicotiana glauca*, a wild relative of tobacco. "These esters are produced by leaf hairs of the plant."

"At first we thought the insecticidal activity of this compound must be coming from the nicotine alkaloids present," said Buta.

"But we noticed that other *Nicotiana* species containing high levels of nicotine were being attacked by the greenhouse whitefly. This suggested that other compounds present must have important insecticidal properties."

Buta isolated the active compounds from *N. gossei* and identified them as a closely related group of esters made up of sucrose and fatty acids.

"But the plant produces only a small amount of these compounds," he said. ARS scientists plan to use classic genetic breeding to increase the quantities of the esters, he said.

As a natural insecticide, the sugar esters work on the nymph stage of the greenhouse whitefly, and are much more effective than bioinsecticides now commonly used. ARS scientists working on the project have applied for a patent for the compounds.

"Related plant species apparently produce similar groups of sugar esters," Buta said. "However, not all sugar esters were found to be insecticidal."

#

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact J. George Buta, Horticultural Crops Quality Laboratory, USDA, ARS, Beltsville, Md. 20705. Telephone (301) 504-5598.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0361.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

NASH SWORN IN AS UNDER SECRETARY FOR SMALL COMMUNITY AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, May 12--Bob Nash was sworn in today as under secretary of agriculture for small community and rural development, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced.

Nash will oversee operations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Administration, Farmers Home Administration, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, and Rural Electrification Administration.

The RDA, FmHA and REA operate an array of loan and grant programs supporting housing construction, farm acquisition, job creation, private business development, and community improvement in the nation's rural areas. The FCIC operates USDA crop insurance programs, which protect participating farmers from losses incurred due to weather-related and other natural disasters.

"The revitalization of rural America is one of my top priorities," Espy said. "Bob Nash brings a great depth of experience in economic development to this important position and I am delighted to have him to lead our rural development efforts at USDA."

Immediately prior to his USDA appointment, Nash worked as associate director of White House personnel, a position to which he was appointed after serving as deputy director of personnel for the Clinton administration transition.

From 1989 to 1992, Nash was president of the Arkansas Development Finance Authority in Little Rock, Ark.

From 1983 to 1989, he served as senior executive assistant for economic development in the office of the Arkansas governor.

From 1975 to 1983, Nash served as vice president of the Winthrop Rockefeller Foundation in Little Rock.

A native of Texarkana, Ark., Nash holds a bachelor's degree from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. He also holds a master's degree in urban studies from Howard University, Washington, D.C.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0362.93

Gil High (202) 720-8998

Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA SECRETARY NAMES NATIONAL DAIRY BOARD MEMBERS

WASHINGTON, May 12--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy has announced the appointment of nine new members and three incumbents to the National Dairy Promotion and Research Board.

Appointed were Tony Souza Jr., Tulare, Calif. (region two); Ray Allan Mallo, Gilman, Wis. (region six); Allard Peck, Chippewa Falls, Wis. (region six); John L. Sullivan, Superior, Neb. (region seven); Joe Bavido Jr., Sharon, Tenn. (region eight); Alice S. Moore, Frazeyburg, Ohio (region nine); David N. Noss, Port Royal, Pa. (region 11); Shirley Mower, Jordanville, N.Y. (region 12) and Harold J. Howrigan, Fairfield, Vt. (region 13).

Reappointed were Francis Dean Gregerson, Longmont, Colo. (region three); James Herman Loper Jr., Santa Teresa, N.M. (region four) and Robert J. Gaebe, New Salem, N.D. (region five).

All appointees serve three-year terms.

The National Dairy Promotion and Research Board, composed of 36 dairy farmers representing 13 regions of the contiguous United States, administers a coordinated program of promotion, research and nutrition education.

The board was established by the Dairy and Tobacco Adjustment Act of 1983. It is authorized to design programs to strengthen the dairy industry's position in domestic and foreign markets. The national program is financed by a mandatory 15-cent per hundredweight assessment on milk produced in the 48 contiguous states and marketed commercially by dairy farmers. USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service monitors the operation of the board.



Release No. 0363.93

Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623

Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

BRANSTOOL SWORN IN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR MARKETING AND INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, May 12--Eugene Branstool, a long-time farmer, was sworn in today as assistant secretary of agriculture for marketing and inspection services, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced.

In this post, Branstool will oversee six U.S. Department of Agriculture agencies with regulatory responsibilities for many aspects of the quality, marketing, transportation, and safety of the nation's food supply. Those agencies are the Agricultural Cooperative Service, the Agricultural Marketing Service, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, the Federal Grain Inspection Service, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the Packers & Stockyards Administration.

"I am happy to have Gene Branstool working with me in these important areas that are the very core of agriculture: food production, food marketing, and food safety," Espy said. "Gene understands the importance of his work to the American consumer and to me; we have the safest food supply in the world."

Branstool is a 16-year veteran of the Ohio Legislature and brings to USDA more than 30 years of experience in grain and livestock farming. Throughout his legislative career, Branstool continued to work with his brother, Ron Branstool, on their 700-acre grain farm.

Branstool served in the Ohio State Legislature in both the House and Senate. He was elected to the House in 1974 and to the Senate in 1983. He was a member of the respective Agriculture Committee in both houses, serving as vice-chair of the House Agriculture Committee and ranking minority member of the Senate Agriculture Committee.

A native of Utica, Ohio, Branstool holds a bachelor's degree in agricultural education from the Ohio State University in Columbus.



Release No. 0364.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623
Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

TOWNSEND SWORN IN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, May 12--Wardell C. Townsend Jr. was sworn in today as assistant secretary of agriculture for administration, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced.

In this position, Townsend will be responsible for the management of USDA's personnel, financial, computerization and telecommunications, equal opportunity, procurement, and other administrative activities.

"I have worked with Wardell Townsend since 1986," Espy said. "I am very pleased to have him lead our efforts as we begin to restructure USDA and reinvent government at the U.S. Department of Agriculture."

Before joining USDA, Townsend served as then-U.S. Rep. Mike Espy's administrative assistant from 1989 to 1993 and legislative director from 1987 to 1989.

From 1983-87, he worked as the projects director for U.S. Rep. Doug Applegate, D-Ohio, and U.S. Rep. Jamie Clarke, D-N.C., with similar responsibilities in both offices.

He served as the business development manager and consultant from 1982-83 to small and disadvantaged businesses under the Cherokee Minority Business Development Center in Asheville, N.C.

From 1980-82, Townsend was head of the Department of Community Development for Henderson County, N.C. He worked as chief development officer for the Human Resource Development Foundation in Morgantown, W.Va., from 1979-80.

Townsend, a native of Baltimore, Md., holds a bachelor's degree from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, N.C., and a master's from West Virginia University in Morgantown.



Release No. 0365.93
Steve Kinsella (202) 720-4623
Carol Childers (202) 720-9120

LYONS SWORN IN AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR NATURAL RESOURCES AND ENVIRONMENT

WASHINGTON, May 12--James Lyons was sworn in today as assistant secretary of agriculture for natural resources and environment, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced.

Lyons will be responsible for directing the policies and supervising the activities and programs of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service and Soil Conservation Service.

"The U.S. Department of Agriculture will take an active role in promoting conservation and stewardship of the forest, range and crop lands across the country," Espy said. "Jim Lyons' experience with natural resource and environmental issues gives him the expertise necessary to lead our efforts in this important area."

Before joining USDA, Lyons served since 1991 as a staff assistant with the House Committee of Agriculture, where he was responsible for the policy and legislative activities of the committee affecting forestry and natural resources, conservation, environmental issues, pesticides, and food safety.

From 1989-91, Lyons was the agricultural advisor to U.S. Rep. Leon Panetta, D-Calif.

Lyons has also served as staff director for the Agriculture Committee's Subcommittee on Forests, Family Farms, and Energy, and as director of resource policy for the Society of American Foresters.

Lyons received a B.S. with High Honors from Cook College, Rutgers University in 1977, and a M.A. in forestry from Yale University in 1979.



ROMINGER SWORN IN AS DEPUTY SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

WASHINGTON, May 12--Richard E. Rominger was sworn in today as deputy secretary of agriculture, the number two position at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy announced.

As deputy secretary, Rominger assists the secretary in supervising the activities of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, one of the largest and most diverse departments in federal government. The USDA's mission includes management of traditional farm programs, domestic food assistance, research and education, agricultural marketing, meat and poultry inspection, forestry and rural development.

"I am delighted to have Rich Rominger as my senior partner as we work to redirect and reinvest the resources of this department into an agency that is both farmer-friendly and taxpayer-friendly," Espy said. "His experience in agriculture, both personal and governmental, will be a tremendous asset to USDA."

Rominger is a family farmer who works with his family to raise alfalfa, beans, corn, rice, wheat and other crops in California. He served in government as director of the California Department of Food and Agriculture from 1977 to 1982. During that period, he served terms as president of the Western Association of State Departments of Agriculture and the Western U.S. Agricultural Trade Association. He also was on the board of directors for the National Association of State Departments of Agriculture.

Rominger has been on the board of directors of American Farmland Trust since 1986. He is active in a number of professional agricultural organizations concerned with soil and water policy, education, research and development and marketing.

He was selected Agriculturalist of the Year at the California State Fair in 1992, and throughout his career he has received numerous other awards including the Distinguished Service Award for the California Farm Bureau Federation in 1991.

Born July 1, 1927, in Woodland, Calif., Rominger received a Bachelor of Science Degree in plant science from the University of California at Davis in 1949. He was married in 1951 to the former Evelyn Rowe. They have four children, Richard S., Charles A., Ruth E. and Bruce J.



Release No. 0367.93
Judy McBride (301) 344-2861
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

SYMPOSIUM HONORING 100 YEARS OF FEDERAL FOOD STUDIES LOOKS TO FUTURE

WASHINGTON, May 13--Next year marks 100 years since the U.S. Department of Agriculture allocated the first federal funds for food investigations, thanks to the untiring efforts of Wilbur O. Atwater. Atwater (1844-1907) was USDA's first chief of nutrition investigations.

In recognition of the centennial, USDA is co-sponsoring a symposium June 2-4 at the Renaissance Hotel-Techworld, in Washington, D.C., with the International Life Sciences Institute (ILSI) and the American Institute of Nutrition (AIN).

More than 40 experts from federal government and academia will speak at the W.O. Atwater Centennial Celebration Symposium. Topics range from nutrition research and education to monitoring and socioeconomic indicators of food consumption. The closing session Friday morning, June 4, will view nutrition's future role in agriculture and health.

Speakers will examine the progress of human nutrition programs conducted by USDA over the past 100 years and identify priority needs and opportunities for the future, said Jacqueline Dupont, national program leader for human nutrition with USDA's Agricultural Research Service.

"Americans are fortunate to have had Dr. Atwater direct our first steps in nutrition research, education and food assistance," said Dupont, who is a symposium organizer. "His visionary concepts of the nutritional basis for health and well-being have proved to be timeless."

But changing lifestyles have put new demands on research, education and food assistance, she said. Less than half of the money spent on food today is for that prepared and eaten at home, she said, and mothers are no longer the sole decision makers on food and nutrition for the family.

What's more, 12,000 new food products appear on grocery shelves every year, and consumers expect a healthy food supply.

Conference coordinator Diane Dalisera of ILSI expects the symposium to draw a diverse audience from the education, research, industrial and policy-making communities.

#

NOTE TO EDITORS: For details, contact Diane Dalisera, conference coordinator, International Life Sciences Institute, 1126 Sixteenth Street, NW, Washington, D.C. 20036. Telephone (202) 659-0789; FAX (202) 659-8654.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0368.93

Alicia L. Ford (202) 720-8998

Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA PROTECTS 36 NEW PLANT VARIETIES

WASHINGTON, May 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture has issued certificates of protection to developers of 36 new varieties of seed-reproduced plants including barley, bean, Kentucky bluegrass, corn, cotton, cucumber, tall fescue, lettuce, oat, onion, pepper, rape and wheat.

Kenneth H. Evans, an official with USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service, said developers of the new varieties will have the exclusive right to reproduce, sell, import and export their products in the United States for 18 years. Certificates of protection are granted after a review of the breeders' records and claims that each new variety is novel, uniform and stable.

The following varieties have been issued certificates of protection:

- the Galena variety of barley, developed by the Adolph Coors Co., Golden, Col.;
- the Cinnabar, Ember and RNK 354 varieties of field bean, developed by the Rogers NK Seed Co., Boise, Idaho;
- the UI 537 variety of field bean, developed by the University of Idaho, Moscow, Idaho;
- the Envy variety of garden bean, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;
- the Ginger variety of Kentucky bluegrass, developed by the Idaho Agricultural Experiment Station, Moscow, Idaho;
- the LH198, LH209, LH214 and LH222 varieties of corn, developed by Holden's Foundation Seeds Inc., Williamsburg, Iowa;
- the ICI 193, ICI 740 and ICI 893 varieties of corn, developed by Zeneca Ltd., Slater, Iowa;
- the CS405, MQ305, OQ101, OQ403, OS602 and CS608 varieties of corn, developed by United AgriSeeds Inc., Marshalltown, Iowa;
- the Germain's Acala GC-702 variety of cotton, developed by Germain's Inc., Bakersfield, Calif.;
- the Arkansas Little Leaf variety of cucumber, developed by M.J. Goode, J.L. Bowers and the Arkansas Agricultural Experiment Station, Fayetteville, Ark.;
- the Jaguar II and Winchester varieties of tall fescue, developed by Pure-Seed Testing Inc., Hubbard, Ore.;
- the El Dorado variety of lettuce, developed by Royal Sluis Inc., Salinas, Calif.;
- the Dane variety of oat, developed by the Wisconsin Agricultural Experiment Station, Madison, Wisc.;
- the Dynasty variety of onion, developed by Nickerson-Zwaan B.V., Barendrecht, the Netherlands;
- the Ole variety of pepper, developed by the Ferry-Morse Seed Co., San Juan Bautista, Calif.;
- the Celebra variety of rape, developed by Svalof AB, Svalov, Sweden;
- the Bingo variety of rape, developed by the Ameri-Can Pedigreed Seed Co., Memphis, Tenn.;
- the IMC 01 variety of rape, developed by E.I. du Pont de Nemours and Co., Wilmington, Del.;

- the Sierra variety of wheat, developed by AgriPro Biosciences Inc., Shawnee Mission, Kan.;
- the Salmon variety of wheat, developed by Plant Breeders 1, Moscow, Idaho;
- the 2545 variety of wheat, developed by Pioneer Hi-Bred International Inc., Windfall, Ind.;
- the Excel variety of wheat, developed by The Ohio State University, Ohio Agricultural Research and Development Center, Wooster, Ohio; and
- the FFR 555W variety of wheat, developed by the FFR Cooperative, Battle Ground, Ind.

The certificates of protection for the Galena barley variety, the UI 537 field bean variety, the Ginger Kentucky bluegrass variety, the Germain's Acala GC-702 cotton variety, the Arkansas Little Leaf cucumber variety, the Dane oat variety, the Celebra and IMC 01 rape varieties and the Sierra, Salmon and Excel wheat varieties are being issued for sale by variety name only as a class of certified seed and to conform to the number of generations specified by the owner.

USDA's AMS administers the plant variety protection program which provides marketing protection to developers of new and distinctive seed-reproduced plants ranging from farm crops to flowers.



Release No. 0370.93

Bob Feist (202) 720-6789

Phil Villa-Lobos (202) 720-4026

INTENTIONS TO PLACE '92 CROP FEED GRAINS IN FARMER-OWNED RESERVE ANNOUNCED

WASHINGTON, May 13--Feed grain producers intend to place 374.5 million bushels of 1992-crop corn, grain sorghum and barley in the farmer-owned reserve (FOR), according to Randy Weber, acting executive vice president of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation.

Feed grain producers needed to file their intentions to enter 1992-crop corn, grain sorghum and barley in the FOR with their local office of USDA's Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service on or before April 30. Producers are also required to pledge 1992-crop feed grains intended for the FOR as collateral for a nine-month nonrecourse CCC price support loan contract by April 30.

Because the total intentions are below the 900-million-bushel authorization, producers may place in the FOR the entire quantity of 1992-crop corn, grain sorghum and barley they designated. However, producer's stated intention to place feed grains into the FOR does not obligate the producer to place the feed grains into the reserve.

The FOR loan rate will be the same rate as the nine-month loan rate. The FOR loans will mature 27 months from the date the nine-month loans mature, but producers may repay FOR loans anytime before maturity without penalty.

Weber said producers will earn storage payments for feed grains pledged as collateral for FOR loans at an annual rate of 26.5 cents per bushel. Storage payments will be earned until market prices equal or exceed 95 percent of the current established target price. Interest will accrue when market prices equal or exceed 105 percent of the current target price. The current target prices per bushel are \$2.75 for corn, \$2.61 for grain sorghum and \$2.36 for barley.

The following table shows producers' intentions to enter 1992-crop corn, grain sorghum and barley into the FOR by state.

STATE	CORN	GRAIN		TOTAL
		SORGHUM	BARLEY	
		(bushels)		
Alabama	16,734	0	0	16,734
Arizona	63,843	0	0	63,843
Arkansas	11,202	0	0	11,202
California	0	0	14,583	14,583
Colorado	3,401,736	220,368	0	3,622,104
Delaware	57,000	0	0	57,000
Georgia	1,288,253	813	0	1,289,066
Idaho	0	0	349,519	349,519
Illinois	42,688,904	61,223	0	42,750,127

Indiana	16,498,324	0	0	16,498,324
Iowa	98,902,096	16,159	0	98,918,255
Kansas	2,645,364	1,740,272	0	4,385,636
Kentucky	3,379,283	0	0	3,379,283
Maryland	95,384	0	0	95,384
Massachusetts	39,522	0	0	39,522
Michigan	1,365,851	0	0	1,365,851
Minnesota	64,024,004	853,541	2,326,710	67,204,256
Mississippi	99,998	0	0	99,998
Missouri	8,559,680	426,646	0	8,986,327
Montana	0	0	1,032,341	1,032,341
Nebraska	73,391,602	5,859,665	15,675	79,266,942
New Mexico	123,162	613,675	0	736,837
New York	781,228	0	0	781,228
North Carolina	1,402,511	0	0	1,402,511
North Dakota	906,390	0	4,965,071	5,871,461
Ohio	9,157,729	0	0	9,157,729
Oklahoma	17,035	53,249	0	70,283
Oregon	0	0	3,685	3,685
Pennsylvania	961,134	0	3,210	964,344
South Carolina	216,960	0	0	216,960
South Dakota	12,508,230	343,023	874,772	13,726,025
Tennessee	1,543,119	13,391	0	1,556,510
Texas	2,684,812	3,073,915	0	5,758,727
Utah	31,950	0	34,185	66,135
Virginia	1,218,021	0	0	1,218,021
Washington	59,808	0	112,752	172,560
West Virginia	397,193	0	0	397,193
Wisconsin	2,967,581	0	0	2,967,581
Wyoming	32,160	0	0	32,160
TOTAL	351,537,803	13,275,940	9,732,503	374,546,246

NOTE: Alaska, Connecticut, Florida, Hawaii, Louisiana, Maine, Nevada, New Hampshire, New Jersey, Rhode Island and Vermont reported zero intentions.



Release No. 0374.93
 Phil Shanholtzer (703) 305-2286
 Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

MARYLAND TAKES ELECTRONIC BENEFITS PROGRAM STATEWIDE

LAUREL, Md., May 14--U.S. Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy and Maryland Gov. William Donald Schaefer today marked the state's completion of the nation's first statewide system for issuing food stamp benefits electronically, helping to streamline the food stamp system and reduce fraud.

At a ceremony at a Giant Food store in Laurel, the secretary and the governor praised the state for developing a system that they said is "good for recipients, good for retailers and good for government."

Maryland's Independence Card Program, begun more than two years ago in Baltimore, is the first statewide application of electronic benefits transfer, or EBT. Using a "debit card" similar to a bank card, the system will issue benefits to some 140,000 Maryland households that participate in the Food Stamp Program, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, and the Child Support Enforcement Program.

"EBT is an invaluable tool for the Food Stamp Program and other benefit programs," Espy said. "It brings participants into the economic mainstream and gives them more control over their benefit accounts. And it vastly simplifies the accounting process for retailers, bankers and the federal government, while reducing fraud."

Under an EBT system, Espy said, people apply for food stamps as they always have at their local food stamp office. Once their eligibility is determined, an account is established for their benefits. The plastic card is issued and a personal identification number (PIN) is selected by the client. The card and the number are used at the grocery store to debit the benefit account by the amount of the grocery purchase.

"At the checkout, the grocery checker totals the eligible food items and enters it into the EBT system. The checker runs the plastic card through the electronic reader, the customer enters the PIN, and the account is debited for the amount," Espy explained. "No money and no food stamps change hands, and all the accounting is done automatically. The store gets its money by electronic transfer within two days."

"We're pleased EBT is working so well for Maryland," Espy said. "This technology will benefit everyone connected with the program. Our experience with EBT so far has been that food stamp users like it, retailers like it, bankers like it and the U.S. Department of Agriculture likes it. Apparently the state government in Maryland likes it too."

He said the system is expected to contribute to lower operating costs and reduced fraud in the Food Stamp Program. Espy said USDA is operating pilot food stamp EBT projects in Pennsylvania, New Mexico, Minnesota and Ohio, but that Maryland is the first to take the system statewide. He added that other states have expressed an interest in developing their own EBT systems. USDA published regulations last spring that allow states to choose EBT as an alternative to coupon issuance.

In addition to being the first statewide EBT system, the Maryland project was the first to include other benefits programs besides food stamps in its EBT system. The Maryland program is supported by USDA, which oversees the nationwide Food Stamp Program, and by the Department of Health and Human Services. The federal agencies are contributing to the cost of the project.

Deluxe Data Systems of Brown Deer, Wisconsin, contracted with the Maryland Department of Human Resources to establish the system.



Release No. 0375.93

Steve Lombardi (202) 720-9113

Diane O'Connor (202) 720-4026

PUBLIC HEARINGS SCHEDULED ON FUTURE OF MEAT AND POULTRY INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, May 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture will hold six hearings nationwide to get public reaction to plans for a new regulatory system for meat and poultry inspection.

"We encourage citizens to attend and to participate in this project of immense scope and importance to the health and welfare of the nation," said Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy, who recently announced plans to sponsor a related food safety issue forum on meat and poultry inspection.

Espy had directed USDA's Food Safety and Inspection Service and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service to prepare plans for reducing pathogens as a response to this winter's outbreak of foodborne illness in several northwestern states.

The hearings are scheduled for May 21 in Dallas, Tex.; June 1 in Seattle, Wash.; June 4 in Des Moines, Iowa; June 9 in Oakland, Calif.; June 11 in Atlanta, Ga.; and June 18 in Philadelphia, Pa. Each hearing will take place from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. local time.

"We strongly encourage interested individuals and groups to give us feedback on our efforts to modernize and reform the federal meat and poultry inspection system," Espy said. "The comments and suggestions from the hearings will be crucial to the agency as we move forward with our inspection reform efforts."

Track I of the two-track inspection reform plan proposed by USDA consists of an immediate program to maximize the performance of the current meat and poultry inspection system. The cornerstone of Track I is a program to reduce pathogens, Espy said.

Track II consists of the development of the regulatory program of the future.

Requests to testify at the six hearings should be submitted to the following:

May 21	Dallas	Edwina Simon, (214) 767-0743
June 1	Seattle	Lynda Spencer, (202) 447-2760
June 4	Des Moines	Kathy Martin, (515) 284-6300
June 9	Oakland	Glenda Petterson, (510) 273-7402
June 11	Atlanta	Dorothy Windham, (404) 347-3911
June 18	Philadelphia	Delores Zamichieli, (215) 597-4217

Copies of the strategic plan and the pathogen reduction program are available from the FSIS Public Awareness Office, Room 1165-S, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone, (202) 690-0351.

Written comments are also encouraged and should be submitted by July 15 to: Policy Office, Attn. Linda Carey, FSIS Hearing Clerk, Room 3171-S, FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250.

For further information, contact Dan Vitiello, director, Planning Coordination and Analysis Unit, Policy Evaluation and Planning Staff, FSIS, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D.C. 20250; telephone, (202) 447-2843.



Release No. 0376.93
John Denne (202) 205-0974
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

SCIENTIFIC PANEL REPORTS FINDINGS ON FOREST HEALTH ISSUES

WASHINGTON, May 14--An assessment of health problems of the forest ecosystems and their potential effect on resources in national forests in eastern Washington and Oregon has been completed.

The report calls for a new approach to planning and implementing restoration and maintenance of East-side forest ecosystems at regional and landscape scales. The ecosystems of the east-side are dynamic, and the management strategies need to reflect this. The report also calls for added emphasis in involving the public and scientists in analyzing alternatives, planning, and monitoring progress.

"We believe this report is a valuable source of information," said F. Dale Robertson, chief of the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Service. "We will use it, along with other internal and external evaluations, in reviewing our forest management policies and in future decision making. This assessment is an attempt to synthesize current knowledge on ecologically-based stewardship and provide guidance on how we should move towards more sustainable strategies."

The report, "East-side Forest Ecosystem Health Assessment," was requested by Speaker of the House Thomas Foley (D-Wash.) and Senator Mark Hatfield (D-Ore.) in May 1992 in response to concerns about the health of the forests in eastern Oregon and Washington.

The forests in eastern Oregon and Washington have high levels of disease infestation and in some areas the forests also have sustained catastrophic losses due to fire, insects and disease in the past several years. About 3 million acres of Federal, State, private and tribal land are affected.

Results and findings of the assessment include:

- o Blanket prescriptions are not appropriate for restoring ecosystem health. Each forest has a unique and individual ecological history, landscape design and social context. Not all forests within east-side ecosystems are stressed or in poor health. Ecological conditions vary widely and restoration priorities and strategies need to reflect that.
- o Riparian areas (areas adjacent to and influenced by lakes and streams) are in critical condition.
- o Standardization and completeness of resource information, both current conditions and historical patterns, are needed to fully implement ecosystem management.
- o Restoration of forest ecosystems on the East-side will depend upon the level of investment chosen.

The science panel composed of 112 scientists from various universities, Federal and State agencies, and private companies produced the five-volume report. The report examines past

management practices of the forests, suggests areas where more research is needed, and ways to apply this knowledge in the future.

Copies of the executive summary of the report can be obtained by contacting Paul Barlow, (503) 326-7128 or writing Pacific Northwest Research Station, Research Information Services, attention Publications Distribution, P.O. Box 3890, Portland Ore., 97208-3890. The final five-volume report will be available for distribution in late July and can be ordered by writing to Portland Habilitation Center Inc., PNW Publications, 2750 S.E. Mailwell Dr., Milwaukie, Ore., 97222.



Release No. 0377.93

Cheryl Prejean Greaux (202) 720-6905

Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES 43 NATIONAL SCHOLARS RECIPIENTS

WASHINGTON, May 14--Secretary of Agriculture Mike Espy today announced the recipients of the 1993 U.S. Department of Agriculture/1890 National Scholars Program which provides full funding to each student for a 4-year college program at one of the 17, 1890 historically black land-grant institutions.

"This is the largest undergraduate scholarship program in the history of USDA," Espy said. The recipients who have demonstrated their high scholastic achievement, leadership and community service will now be given the opportunity to explore the vast fields of agriculturally-related study."

USDA will provide students in the program with full tuition, fees, books a personal computer and software, employment and employee benefits for each year for four years while pursuing a bachelor's degree. Each scholarship is valued at between \$15,000 and \$22,000 per student per year. The institutions will provide the recipients with room and board for each year.

The USDA/1890 National Scholars Program is the highest Federal honor bestowed upon graduating high school seniors pursuing an undergraduate degree in agriculture, food or natural resource sciences at 17 historically black land-grant colleges and universities.

The 43 National Scholars were selected from more than 2.7 million students expected to graduate from high school students in 1993. They were chosen for their exceptional performance on either the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT). Further consideration was based on students' essays, self-assessments, description of activities, school recommendations and school transcripts. Distinguished panels of educators reviewed these submissions and recommended 212 National Scholars in March to USDA for final selection.

Espy said, "this program helps to increase the number of students studying in agriculturally related curricula. It also provides the students with career opportunities and at the same time it develops the pool of agricultural professionals for the future."

Scholars were notified by USDA officials of their selection and will receive a certificate of appointment from Secretary Espy. Further selections of recipients are pending.

The 17 colleges and universities, known collectively as the 1890 Institutions were established by the 1890 Morrill Act which authorized states to establish black land grant colleges and universities. The following is a list of the recipients of the 1993 USDA/1890 National Scholars Program:

Name/Hometown	Institution/Major
Godfrey Anderson, Centreville, Miss.	Alcorn State; Chemistry
Heather Campbell, Missouri City, Texas	Florida A&M; Ag Bus
David Lewis, Tacoma, Wash.	Va State; Ag Bus
James Mills, Opelousas, La.	Southern; Ag Bus
Valerie Kimbrough, Columbus, Ga.	Fort Valley State; Ag Econ
Kendra Perkins, Baker, La.	Southern; Ag Econ
David Johnson, Vista, Calif.	Prairie View; Comp Sci
Deidra Gray, West Palm Beach, Fla.	Florida A&M; Ag Eng
James Pickens, Stoneville, N.C.	NC A&T; Ag Eng.

Norris Nicholson, Coffeeville, Miss.
Dominique Moore, Chicago, Ill.
Terrica Griggs, Memphis, Tenn.
Drenda Weir, Vandalia, Mo.
Vernetta Gaskins, Washington, DC
Cameron Bruett, Omaha, Neb.
Ayanda Brown, Plainfield, N.J.
Tori Sweeney, Shreveport, La.
Ralph Lindsey II, Hattiesburg, Miss.
Craig Nicholas, Brownwood, Texas
Tanya Sydnor, Stafford Va.
Chad Brown, Slidell, La.
Kathy Coleman, Chicago, Ill.
Eric Brooks, Phoenix City, Ariz.
Bethany D. Kelly, Blue Springs, Mo.
Andrea M. Palmer, Tuskegee, Ala.
Victoria Dotson, Memphis, Tenn.
Monica Brown, Monroeville, Pa.
Jason Walker, Joplin, Mo.
Cicero Holmes III, Roosevelt, N.Y.
Allen D. Roberts, Spring Valley, N.Y.
Jonathan Wilson, Lafayette, La.
Jennifer Greene, Orangeburg, S.C.
Melissa Hill, Lincoln Ala.
Torian Harris, Memphis, Tenn.
Corey Washington, Augusta, Ga.
La Teasha Benson, Bastrop, La.
Tonia Clifton, Hamilton, Ohio
Cleatus Robinson, Orangeburg, S.C.
Sharon Parkes, Linn, Mo.
Alicia Jones, Pine Bluff, Ark.
Julia Feedback, Mt. Washington, Ky.
Denise McDonald, Anchorage, Alaska
Renee Todd, Bishopville, Md.

Alcorn State; Comp Sci
Langston; Home Econ
Tennessee; Home Econ
Lincoln; Comp Sci
Univ of Md. ES; Chemistry
Tuskegee; Vet Med
NC A&T; Env Sci
Va State; Agr Eng
Alcorn State; Comp Sci
Prairie View; Ag Bus
Delaware State; Bus Adm
Southern; Urb. Forestry
Lincoln; Biology
Tuskegee; Soil Sci
Tuskegee; Biology
Tuskegee; Ag Sci
Tuskegee; Biology
Alabama A&M; Chemistry
Lincoln; Forestry
Va. State; Nat Res Mgmt
NC A&T; Earth & Env Sci
Univ. of Arkansas; Chem
S.C. State College; Comp Sci
Alabama A&M; Chemistry
Tennessee State; Forestry
S.C. State College; Ag Eng
Univ. of Arkansas; Comp Sci
Kentucky; Bus Finance
S.C. State College; Comp Sci
Lincoln; Comp Sci
Univ. of Arkansas; Bus Adm
Kentucky; Biology
Univ. of Arkansas; Bus Adm
Univ. of Md. ES; Nutrition



Program Announcements-

Release No. 0356.93

Gene Rosera (202) 720-6734

Charles Hobbs (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET RICE PRICES, MARKETING CERTIFICATE RATES

WASHINGTON, May 11--Acting Under Secretary of Agriculture Charles J. O'Mara today announced the prevailing world market prices of milled rice, loan rate basis, as follows:

--long grain whole kernels:	6.96 cents per pound
--medium grain whole kernels:	6.29 cents per pound
--short grain whole kernels:	6.28 cents per pound
--broken kernels:	3.48 cents per pound

Based upon these milled rice world market prices, loan deficiency payment (LDP) rates, gains from repaying price support loans at the world market price, and marketing certificate rates are:

	Loan Gain and LDP Rate	Marketing Certificate Rate
\$/Cwt.....	
--for long grain:	\$2.03	\$0.35
--for medium grain:	\$1.84	\$0.34
--for short grain:	\$1.84	\$0.34

These announced prices and rates are effective today at 3 p.m. EDT. The next scheduled price announcement will be made May 11, at 3 p.m. EDT.



Release No. 0371.93
Janise Zygmunt (202) 720-6734
Leslie Parker (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES PREVAILING WORLD MARKET PRICE AND USER MARKETING CERTIFICATE PAYMENT RATES FOR UPLAND COTTON

WASHINGTON, May 13--Bruce R. Weber, acting executive vice president of USDA's Commodity Credit Corporation, today announced the prevailing world market price, adjusted to U.S. quality and location (adjusted world price), for Strict Low Middling (SLM) 1-1/16 inch (micronaire 3.5-3.6 and 4.3-4.9, strength 24-25 grams per tex) upland cotton (base quality) and the coarse count adjustment (CCA) in effect from 5:00 p.m. today through 3:59 p.m. Thursday, May 20. The user marketing certificate payment rates announced today are in effect from 12:01 a.m. Friday, May 14 through midnight Thursday, May 20.

This period represents Week 5 of the 6-week transition period from using current shipment prices to using forward shipment prices in the AWP calculation. The procedure was adopted to avoid a dramatic change in the AWP that could occur with no transition period due to differences between new and old crop price quotes. This procedure is also used to calculate the U.S. Northern Europe (USNE) price for the purpose of determining the maximum allowable adjustment to the AWP under the Step 1 provision.

For Weeks 5 and 6, the Northern Europe (NE) price = [NE current price + (2 x NE forward price)]/3. The NE coarse count price = [NE coarse count current price + (2 x NE coarse count forward price)]/3. The USNE price = [USNE current price + (2 x USNE forward price)]/3.

The Agricultural Act of 1949, as amended, provides that the AWP may be further adjusted if: (a) the AWP is less than 115 percent of the current crop year loan rate for base quality upland cotton, and (b) the Friday through Thursday average price quotation for the lowest-priced U.S. growth as quoted for Middling (M) 1-3/32 inch cotton, C.I.F. northern Europe (USNE price) exceeds the NE price. The maximum allowable adjustment is the difference between the USNE price and the NE price.

A further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP may be made in accordance with this provision. The calculated AWP is 90 percent of the 1992 upland cotton base quality loan rate, and the USNE price exceeds the NE price by 2.27 cents per pound. Following are the relevant calculations:

I.	Calculated AWP	47.07 cents per pound
	1992 Base Loan Rate	52.35 cents per pound
	AWP as a Percent of Loan Rate	90
II.	USNE Price	63.02 cents per pound
	NE Price	<u>-60.75</u> cents per pound
	Maximum Adjustment Allowed	2.27 cents per pound

Based on a consideration of the U.S. share of world exports, the current level of cotton export sales and cotton export shipments, and other relevant data, no further adjustment to this week's calculated AWP will be made.

This week's AWP and coarse count adjustment are determined as follows:

Adjusted World Price

NE Price	60.75
Adjustments:	
Average U.S. spot market location	11.82
SLM 1-1/16 inch cotton	1.55
Average U.S. location	0.31
Sum of Adjustments	- 13.68
Calculated AWP	47.07
Further AWP adjustment	- 0
ADJUSTED WORLD PRICE	47.07 cents/lb.

Coarse Count Adjustment

NE Price	60.75
NE Coarse Count Price	- 56.61
	4.14
Adjustment to SLM 1-1/32 inch cotton	- 3.95
COARSE COUNT ADJUSTMENT	0.19 cents/lb.

Because the AWP is below the 1991 and 1992 base quality loan rates of 50.77 and 52.35 cents per pound, respectively, the loan repayment rate during this period is equal to the AWP, adjusted for the specific quality and location plus applicable interest and storage charges. The AWP will continue to be used to determine the value of upland cotton that is obtained in exchange for commodity certificates.

Because the AWP is below the 1992-crop loan rate, cash loan deficiency payments will be paid to eligible producers who agree to forgo obtaining a price support loan with respect to the 1992 crop. The payment rate is equal to the difference between the loan rate and the AWP. Producers are allowed to obtain a loan deficiency payment on a bale-by-bale basis.

The USNE current price has exceeded the NE current price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1992 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the current user marketing certificate payment rate is 2.26 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for bales opened by domestic users and for cotton contracts entered into by exporters for delivery prior to Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For the Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Current Price	NE Current Price	USNE Current Minus NE Current	Current User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 1/
1	Apr. 22, 1993	64.85	61.53	3.32	2.07
2	Apr. 29, 1993	63.70	60.78	2.92	1.67
3	May 6, 1993	62.56	60.03	2.53	1.28
4	May 13, 1993	64.25	60.74	3.51	2.26

1/ USNE current price minus NE current price minus 1.25 cents.

The USNE forward price has exceeded the NE forward price by more than 1.25 cents per pound for four consecutive weeks and the AWP has not exceeded 130 percent of the 1993 crop year base quality loan rate in any week of the 4-week period. As a result, the forward user marketing certificate payment rate is 0.39 cents per pound. This rate is applicable during the Friday through Thursday period for cotton contracted by exporters for delivery after Sept. 30, 1993. Relevant data are summarized below:

Week	For Friday through Thursday Period Ending	USNE Forward Price	NE Forward Price	USNE Forward Minus NE Forward	Forward User Marketing Certificate Payment Rate 2/
		cents per pound
1	Apr. 22, 1993	69.85	61.97	7.88	6.63
2	Apr. 29, 1993	63.10	61.28	1.82	0.57
3	May 6, 1993	62.19	60.50	1.69	0.44
4	May 13, 1993	62.40	60.76	1.64	0.39

2/ USNE forward price minus NE forward price minus 1.25 cents.

Next week's AWP, CCA and user marketing certificate payment rates will be announced on Thursday, May 20.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0372.93
John C. Ryan (202) 720-8207
Arthur WHitmore (202) 720-4026

USDA ANNOUNCES 1993 FLUE-CURED TOBACCO NO-NET-COST ASSESSMENTS

WASHINGTON, May 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation today announced that the combined flue-cured tobacco no-net-cost assessment and the marketing assessment will be 1 cent for the producer and 3 cents for the purchaser on each pound of the 1993-crop of flue-cured tobacco that is marketed.

CCC's analysis projected losses under its flue-cured tobacco loan agreements during the upcoming year could amount to as much as 5 cents per pound for producers and 5 cents per pound for purchasers, when the potential losses on current inventory are projected over the normal sell-out period of 5 years. However, after applying existing funds in the no-net-cost account from prior years, CCC needs only to collect a no-net-cost assessment of 0.2115 cents per pound from producers and 2.2115 cents per pound from purchasers on the marketing of 1993 flue-cured tobacco.

This difference is due to the fact that only producers paid assessments with respect to 1982 through 1985 crops, and the assessments collected during that time exceeded the amount necessary to reimburse CCC for its realized losses. Accordingly, this excess amount has been credited to the producers' 1993 assessments.

The Agricultural Act of 1949 was amended in 1986 to require that the no-net-cost assessment be determined in such a manner that producers and purchasers share equally, to the maximum extent possible, in maintaining the no-net-cost account for flue cured tobacco. The Act further requires that producers and purchasers pay the amount of any no-net-cost assessments on 1985 and subsequent crops of flue-cured tobacco.

In addition to the no-net-cost assessment, producers and purchasers are required to pay a tobacco marketing assessment. The marketing assessment for the 1993 crop was announced on Dec. 15, 1992, (USDA press release number 1148-92) and amounted to 0.7885 cent per pound for the producer and 0.7885 cent per pound for the purchaser.

The Flue-Cured Tobacco Cooperative Stabilization Corporation, the producer-owned association through which price support is made available for flue-cured tobacco, was consulted before a final determination on these assessments was reached.

◆ ◆ ◆ ◆ ◆

Release No. 0373.93
Dana Stewart (202) 720-5091
Arthur Whitmore (202) 720-9899

FGIS PUBLISHES NEW MOISTURE METER CHARTS

WASHINGTON, May 13--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Federal Grain Inspection Service has published a revised conversion chart for the Motomco Model 919 Moisture Meter for Hard Red Winter wheat.

The revision corrects system differences which were found to be statistically significant during a routine annual review of the chart.

The new chart (Chart W-4-93) should be used for all official inspections performed on or after May 15.

The Motomco Moisture Meter is the officially approved instrument for testing moisture in grains. Technical contact: Jim Rampton, FGIS Quality Assurance and Research Division, (816) 891-0450.



